



ABERDEEN v CELTIC

Sunday, 14th March, 1999

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FROM THE DUGOUT

This evening we welcome Celtic to Pittodrie Stadium for our first 'live' match of the the year and if the excitement is anything like it was when we played here back in August, there will not be many complaints! In the end, as you will remember, we took the points but it would be nice to do that again without so many heart-stopping moments!

In our last outing at Tynecastle a fortnight ago, our performance was very pleasing and it was one of those games when all of the good work which is undertaken on the training ground was taken forward into the match itself with resultant benefits.

I have made it clear to the players that we now must continue in the same vein on an ongoing basis as it is absolutely no good whatsoever simply turning it on when we feel like it. All too often in the past, we have followed up a good performance with a poor one and we must really aim for a consistency which has sometimes been lacking.

I thought Paul Bernard, given that it was his first full ninety minutes for a year, was exceptional, and he pulled the strings in the middle of the park. His fitness level is very high and he gelled well with Andreas Mayer in the engine room area.

I was also pleased for Dennis Wyness who took his first senior goal with tremendous composure. I'm sure most people thought he was going to blast the ball past Roddie McKenzie but instead he elected to stroke it home. The goal, of course, came after an excellent move involving Eoin Jess and Paul Bernard.

All in all though, it was a good team



performance with everyone battling for one another, whilst we concentrated on what we are good at, which is passing the ball on the deck. Since then we have been working very hard in training, as well as having the friendly at Raith Rovers last weekend, and I have been pleased by the way the lads have been going about their business.

The victory at Hearts a couple of weeks ago was a stepping stone in our move up the league but no more than that. I am acutely aware we are still in danger of getting ourselves sucked right back in to the danger zone if we allow our standards to drop. That is why, as I said earlier, we must continue against Celtic this evening with exactly the same determination and display of character we showed a fortnight ago.

PAUL HEGARTY



JIM LEIGHTON

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always been in a
league of their own.”**

Now, the top Scottish clubs
are in a league of their
own as well.”

SPL
SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CAPTAIN'S LOG

The victory against Hearts at Tynecastle a couple of weeks ago was extremely welcome to say the least and certainly has taken the pressure off somewhat as far as our league status is concerned although there is no way we are being complacent.

Our target now is to finish as high up the table as we possibly can and with ten games still to go, there are plenty points to play for.

Tonight we meet my old club Celtic in front of the Sky Sports television cameras, just as we did back in August when the game had just about everything imaginable in it, before we eventually came through 3-2. Whilst some people thought there had been an element of luck about our win, more of the same tonight would do quite nicely.

Our trip to Celtic Park in October was not such a happy affair and we came off second best in a 2-0 reversal which, to be frank, we could have no complaints about.

Fans often ask me if it is any different when you play against your former club and the honest answer is that it is not, at least not consciously. As a professional, you want to go out and do your best, irrespective of the opposition and anyway it's been quite a few seasons since I was at Celtic.

Some of the televised matches recently have been pretty one sided affairs and hopefully, if that is the case this evening, it is in our favour!



Personally though, I believe this will be an extremely difficult match in which Celtic will start as overwhelming favourites. However, if we approach the game in the same manner as we did in Edinburgh recently, then we may just cause a wee upset. I know the majority of the fans will be right behind us and that will make a huge difference.

Enjoy the game!

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NEWS & GOSSIP

MATCH SPONSOR



The match sponsor at the Kilmarnock game was Ross Tubular Services. Dave Ross and members of his staff are pictured with man of the match, Andreas Mayer.

MATCHBALL SPONSOR



Souters Sportsturf were the matchball sponsor at the Kilmarnock game and they are pictured receiving their ball from Paul Bernard.

CHRISTMAS CARD WINNER



Neil MacRae from Blairgowrie was the winner of the Shell Dons Youngstars Christmas Card competition and received a VIP day out at the Kilmarnock game. Neil is pictured before the game receiving his autographed AFC football from Nigel Pepper.



RNIB TABLE FOOTBALL

David Rowson and Russell Anderson were on hand at the Aberdeen Beach Leisure Centre to help launch a human table football competition for the RNIB. The players took part in one of the games which involves participants being strapped to a pole. From what we've heard, the players didn't look all that impressive!

HMV

TEAM UP WITH THE DONS

Today's music is provided by HMV in the Trinity Centre, Aberdeen. HMV will be providing music for all home matches for this season.

FORTHCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

in The Richard Donald Suite:

St. Patrick's Night Dance

with Garich Blend — 8 p.m.-12.45 p.m.
Tickets £8.00 (inc. 3 drinks)

April 5th, 6th, 7th

Graham Geddes and the Band

Entry free by ticket — 7.30 p.m.-10.30 p.m.

All events feature: Mini Bingo, Grand Raffle and Licensed Bar
Tickets for the above events are available from Pittodrie
two weeks before the concert.

For further details contact George Cadenhead on (01224) 650425

Community Events in association
with HYDRO ELECTRIC



NEWS & GOSSIP

TICKET OFFICE NEWS

Please note the following new telephone numbers in the ticket office: Lottery is now 01224 6504365 and the Golden Strike is 01224 650422.

The Ticket Office will be selling tickets for the two Scotland games and tickets are on sale for the away game at Motherwell. The Club have received 5,000 tickets which are priced at £11 and £3.

Birthday Boys

March is quite a busy month for birthdays among the Pittodrie playing staff, four of its members having special days to celebrate.

Reserve defender Phil McGuire started the procession a week past Thursday when he became 19 and another 19th birthday celebrant is goalkeeper Ryan Esson, whose big day is next Friday. Dennis Wyness follows his 22nd birthday on March 22 and Gary Smith is 28 three days later.

Looking Ahead

Fir Park, the Dons' destination on Premier League business next Saturday, could be described as one of Aberdeen's happier hunting grounds, although drawn games predominate in their league visits to Motherwell.

Since incurring two Premier Division defeats there in season 1995/96 - by a single goal margin on each occasion - Aberdeen have recorded two 2-1 wins and three 2-2 draws.

The Dons' Fir Park record in Premier Division and Premier League games reads:

P39 W15 D17 L7 F53 A36

PROMOTIONS NEWS

Scratchcard Winners

D Smith from Kincorth, Aberdeen was the lucky winner of £1000 in the Dons Scratchcard recently with M Boylan from Aberdeen also winning the jackpot two weeks ago. Agents are required for selling scratchcards with 10% commission available as well as free match ticket incentives. Agents are also required for the Dons Golden Strike (with 15% commission payable) and Promotions Manager Jim Whyte wants to hear from you. If you would like further information contact Jim on 01224 650437.

RED ARMY BONANZA

The 50/50 halftime draw from the Kilmarnock game has still not been claimed. The winning ticket number 37456 was sold in the Richard Donald Stand with £1240 up for grabs. If you are the lucky winner, contact Jim Whyte on 01224 650437.

JACK ALLISTER

Another link with the successful Aberdeen team of the 50's has been severed with the recent death of Jack Allister after a lengthy illness in his native Edinburgh.

The more senior Dons' followers will remember Jack primarily as part of an immortal Pittodrie half-back line of Allister, Young and Glen, a combination which contributed significantly to the capture of the club's first Scottish League championship title in season 1954-55, finishing as league runners up in the following season, winning the League cup in 1955, and reaching successive Scottish Cup finals in 1953 and 1954.

Jack joined Aberdeen after a spell with Chelsea in the early 50s under the managership of David Halliday and later served under David Shaw.

Operating as a traditional wing-half (that was before the term 'midfield player' entered football's vocabulary) with equal responsibility for defending and initiating attacks, Jack had another string to his bow in his consistent ability to convert penalty kicks and, on occasion, score direct in free kick situations.

In his 163 first-team appearances spread over six seasons from 1952 to 1958, his tally of 27 goals included 16 penalty conversions, and on three occasions he scored twice from the spot in a game.

A quiet, almost withdrawn, individual off the field, Jack set his slim wiriness into perpetual motion on it, and, as a former paratrooper, he was more than capable of holding his own in any physical exchanges.

After his Pittodrie departure, he had a spell in Highland League football with Deveronvale, but it will be his contribution to the Dons' emergence as a force in Scottish football that Jack Allister will be long remembered in the North east.

SUPPORTERS' NEWS

YOUR BRANCH

We get a good response from supporters clubs but we are always on the look out for more. Remember this is your opportunity to advertise your Supporter's Club and gain more members.

Any Supporters Clubs who want to advertise in the programme should send details of their club to:

Paul Third, PR Department, Aberdeen F.C.,
Pittodrie Stadium, Aberdeen AB24 5QH.

Competition Feature


Brush up on your drawing skills with Atlantic Telecom and help us find a buddy!!





Calling all budding young artists! Atlantic Telecom has just launched a major new competition, which is being supported by AFC and the Evening Express. All local school children are invited to brush up on their painting skills and design an Atlantic Telecom mascot as a mate for Angus the Bull and Wee Alickie.

The new mascot will be made from the winning design, so we are looking for lots of great ideas to make sure that we can find a great pal for Angus and Alickie.

We've got some fantastic prizes up for grabs - the winning designer will be presented with a PLAYSTATION and

TWO games and get to be a VIP for a day when the mascot is launched. The winning designer's class will be on the ball when they join the VIP at the first premiership home game of next season and the school will receive a boost to its art facilities with £500 of drawing equipment. 

There'll also be prizes for the runner's-up class and school, with £50 of drawing equipment and a class trip to the first home game of next season's premiership up for grabs. 

Why don't you get your thinking caps on and see what ideas you can come up with. You can get full details about the competition, together with terms and conditions from your school or check out your latest copy of Starshoot. If you're not a Don's youngstar, then you can always drop into one of the Atlantic shops in the Bon Accord Centre or Union Street, Aberdeen to pick up an entry leaflet. 

Get your paintboxes out and GOOD LUCK!



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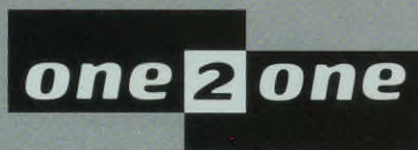
ACTION SHOTS

from last home game against
Kilmarnock at Pittodrie



Photos by Andy Convey

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UNDER 21 REPORT

IN DRAWING VEIN

While extending their unbeaten run to four games, the young Dons had to settle for draws in away Premier Under 21 League fixtures against Motherwell and Dundee.

The Fir Park game started explosively with a rather soft penalty award in the opening minute giving Motherwell the lead and Dennis Wyness restoring equality for Aberdeen a couple of minutes later.

Thereafter, however, the contest settled into a goal-less stalemate with an unresponsive Fir Park pitch not helping matters.

Visiting Dundee's Glenesk Park, the Aberdeen line-up included Paul Bernard as an overage player given an opportunity to continue his comeback after a lengthy injury absence.

It was Bernard who twice put the young Dons in front before the interval, but on each occasion Dundee fought back to level terms, the game finishing in a 2-2 draw.

Unlike the Motherwell game, however, Aberdeen could take some satisfaction from the number of chances created only to be let down by their finishing.

Match Details

Wednesday, February 3, 1999

PREMIER UNDER 21 LEAGUE

(at Fir Park)

MOTHERWELL 1 ABERDEEN 1

Aberdeen scorer: Wyness

Team: Stillie, Duncan, McGuire, Buchan, Milne, Pepper, Hart, Rowson, Wyness, Gillies, Clark.

Subs: Derek Young (for Duncan), B Bett (for Pepper), Rutkiewicz (not used), Marwick (not used), Esson (not used).

Monday, February 15, 1999

PREMIER UNDER 21 LEAGUE

(at Glenesk Park)

DUNDEE 2 ABERDEEN 2

Aberdeen scorer: Bernard (2)

Team: Stillie, Rutkiewicz, McGuire, Buchan, Milne, Pepper, Gillies, Bernard, Wyness, Notman, B Bett.

Subs: Clark (for Bernard), Marwick (not used), C Bett (not used)

YOUTHS MAINTAIN MOMENTUM

Aberdeen's Under 18 squad stretched their Youth League series without defeat to eight games with a home win over Dunfermline followed by a draw with Dundee United away from home.

Entertaining the Fifers at Cove's Allan Park, the Pittodrie colts were 3-0 ahead at the interval and their lead could have been greater on chances made.

Darren Mackie showed the way with goals in 27 minutes, when he netted at the second attempt from a Calum Bett cross, and again in 34 minutes, following a clever reverse pass from Fergus Tiernan. Seven minutes later, Tiernan joined the scoring list, heading home a Baldur Bett flag kick.

Dunfermline narrowed the deficit with two second half goals, but Aberdeen continued to make chances and completed a performance which was better than the final 3-2 scoreline suggests.

Mackie repeated his two-goal haul in the 2-2 draw with Dundee United, when all four goals came in a short spell early in the second half.

It was a testing second Youth League appearance for S-form signing Mark Peat, but the young goalkeeper acquitted himself well.

Match Details

Saturday 6 February 1999

UNDER 18 YOUTH LEAGUE

(at Allan Park, Cove)

ABERDEEN 3 DUNFERMLINE 2

Aberdeen scorers: Mackie (2), Tiernan

Team: Esson, McGuire, McNaughton, Marwick, Milne, Rutkiewicz, C Bett, B Bett, Mackie, Tiernan, Clark.

Subs: Ferguson (for C Bett), Robert Duncan (for Clark)

Saturday February 13 1999

UNDER 18 YOUTH LEAGUE

(at Graham Street Ground)

DUNDEE UNITED 2 ABERDEEN 2

Aberdeen scorer: Mackie (2)

Team: Peat, Marwick, McGuire, Tiernan, Milne, Rutkiewicz, C Bett, B Bett, Mackie, Hart, Clark.

Subs: Robert Duncan (not used), McNaughton (not used).

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In this edition, Offside takes a look at the stranger side of football. If you have any stories or jokes write to: Offside at AFC, Pittodrie Stadium, Aberdeen AB24 5QH. Meanwhile, have a read of these ...

THE GOLD CHAIN DERBY

It was 1991 and the derby between Uruguay's two biggest teams was taking place: Penarol-Nacional. The incident involved Panamean international Dely Valdez (now in PSG, France) and Penarol defender Goncalves. Valdez was Nacional's striker and he was known for wearing gold chains and other jewellery on the pitch. Both players were struggling as a corner kick was about to take place for Nacional, Goncalves ripped off one of Valdez's gold-chains and hid it in his sock. Nobody in the stadium saw it but the TV cameras caught the moment, and after the game Valdez and the police were waiting for Goncalves outside the dressing rooms. Goncalves was arrested but the charges were later dropped as he had returned the chain.

Why did he do it?
Goncalves reply is clear and simple:

"I don't know what I was thinking"

TACTICAL ERROR

Cumbernauld United of Scotland, once took Kenny Dalglish on loan from Celtic way back in '69 or '70. For a few brief halcyon months they had at their disposal a player who would go on to become one the finest strikers in the world and an all-time scoring legend. So where did they play him? In goal!! There's a picture in the club house of a young Kenny up to his knees in mud, all padded up, between the sticks looking bemused. No wonder they were non-league.

LOST IN THE MIST

A couple of years ago there was a story in the local paper about a Cambridgeshire league match that was played one winter in typically murky fenland conditions. After about 10 minutes, the fog came down so thickly that visibility was reduced to about half the length of the pitch, so the referee decided to abandon the game. It was only after the players had been

enjoying the warmth of the changing rooms for about 20 minutes that a player on one of the teams noticed that their goalkeeper had not come in. When they went out to look for him they discovered him still faithfully guarding his goal, oblivious to the fact that the match had been abandoned. Apparently, he thought his team had been playing particularly well and had managed to keep the play at the other end of the pitch...

WATCH OUT REF!

In a friendly practice match in Mexico during the seventies, a goalie was hassling the goalie about something or other. The player left the pitch and returned with a gun, shot the ref a point blank range killing him instantly.

[The actual story is in 'Would You Believe It Too?', a book full of rather odd - allegedly true - stories, that was published in the late 70's and should be available from good second hand stores]

CLUB CONTACTS

Printed below is the list of official Aberdeen Football Club supporters' clubs for season 1998-99, along with contact names. Joining an official supporters' club offers additional benefits to fans - simply contact the one closest to you for further details.

If you are in an area not currently served by a supporters' club and would be interested in starting one, please contact the Public Relations Department at Pittodrie for more details. Getting your club underway might not be as difficult as you think!

ASSOCIATION OF AFC SUPPORTERS' CLUBS

Secretary: Mrs Susan Scott, 'Aldon', Wellington Road, Aberdeen AB12 3BJ. Tel: 01224 898260.

Chairman: Euan Chisholm, Fars Hatt, 12 Westburn Court, Buckie AB56 1EF. 01542 833999.

1st N. IRELAND: Newel Hagan, 3 Mercer Street, Lisburn. 01846 605591.

ABERDEEN: Mrs Jean Sandison, 22 Whitestripes Way, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen. 01224 821099.

ABERDEEN RED FEAR: Russell Cranna, 35 Abergeldie Road, Aberdeen AB1 6ED. 01224 211322

ABERDEEN FC DISABLED: Bryan McKenzie, 15 Gairsay Drive, Summerhill, Aberdeen AB15 6JS.

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GLENROTHES: Colin Blyth, 7 Glendevon Road, Glenrothes, Fife KY7 4SU. 01592 774698.

GRANITE CITY: David Whitelock, 29 Ardarroch Court, Aberdeen AB24 5QZ. 01224 637574.

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HUNTLY: Brian Henderson, 32 Clashmach Drive, Huntly AB54 5LH.

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LETHAL-REDS: Graeme D. Smith, 8/2 Murano Place, Edinburgh EH7 5HN. 0131 553 6288.

LENZIE: Bert Walls, 118 Darroch Way, Seafar, Cumbernauld. 01236 723238.

LONDON: Andrew Dewar, 125 Church Road, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 1EH. 01707 651525 (H).

LONE STAR REDS: Bruce Mackie, 17318 Mason Ridge Drive, Houston, Texas 77095, USA.

MARISCHAL BAR REDS: Alan Duncan, 1 Craibstone Farm Cottages, Bucksburn, Aberdeen AB21 9TR. 01224 715385.

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STRATHSPEY: Mrs Kim Lovatt, 44 Cairngorm Avenue, Granttown on Spey PH26 3EX. 01479 872837.

THURSO: Richard Trueman, 14 Laurie Terrace, Thurso, Caithness KW13 8ER. 01847 896979.

TURRIFF: Mrs Muriel Chisholm, 12 Gordon Road, Turriff AB53 4PS. 01888 563902.

ULLEVI DONS '83: Pamela Benzie, 2 Oldtown Terrace, Aberdeen AB16 7LT. 450498

UPPER DEESIDE: Mrs Mandy Cruickshank, Gelderwood, Glen Road, Lumphannan AB31 4SL. 013398 83292.

WEE COUNTY: Dawn Ambrose, 11c Glencoe Road, Stirling FK8 1ET. 01786 475619.

WEST LOTHIAN: Bob Elliott, 284 Sutherland Way, Knightsridge, Livingston EH54 8HR. 01506 437162.

11th MAY: Martin Reid, 16 Young Street, Perth PN2 0EF. 01738 631010.



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TODAY'S VISITORS

CELTIC



Jonathan Gould

Signed as cover for the injured Gordon Marshall and Stewart Kerr at beginning of last season, but debuted in a friendly against Roma when Marshall was laid low with a virus, and kept his place. Kept his goal intact throughout an entire Coca-Cola Cup winning campaign.

His fine form was awarded with a new four-year contract and a late call-up to the Scotland squad for the World Cup in France.

Enrico Annoni

Despite only 30 appearances in two seasons, partly down to injury, the big Italian has become a cult favourite with the huge Celtic support despite his eccentric attacking efforts.

Tom Boyd

Promoted to club captain following Paul McStay's retirement, Boyd is the model professional - assured and confident and able to play in the central defensive or full back roles. A regular fixture for both club and country, he now has over 50 Scotland caps, earning him a coveted place in the SFA Hall of Fame.

Stephane Mahe

Played against Celtic in the Cup Winners' Cup in season 95/96 for Paris St-Germain, before missing out on the final and seeing his career slip somewhat during spells with Auxerre and Rennes. Moved to Scotland to resurrect his career, and made the left-back role his own last season until a bad knee injury kept him out of the championship run-in.

Season 1998/99 has seen Mahe make a full recovery and return to form in the team.

Tosh McKinlay

Came into his own when he joined his boyhood heroes in a surprise deal, and his no nonsense defending, coupled with his surging runs and crosses down the left, pushed him into the frame for Scotland honours at the age of 30.

A much-publicised training ground bust up with Henrik Larsson put him out of favour last term with head coach Wim Jansen but, despite a lack of first-team games, he still made it to the World Cup.

Marc Rieper

A Danish internationalist with over 50 caps, Rieper settled in brilliantly to the defence at Celtic Park alongside Alan Stubbs after three seasons in the English Premiership. Scored the opener in the Coca-Cola Cup Final and seems to be just the commanding figure in the back four that Celtic have lacked since the days of Paul Elliot.

Alan Stubbs

The club-record signing's first season was marred by injury problems, and the defender was given a rough time by the unconvinced media and some of the fans. Under ex-boss Wim Jansen and alongside Marc Rieper, Stubbs was outstanding during his second term.

Johan Mjallby

The Swedish internationalist signed from AIK Stockholm on a four-year contract. A strong and versatile midfielder/defender, Johan has 8 international caps.

Johan was one of the nominees for this year's Swedish Player of the Year Award, just losing out to fellow Celtic Henrik Larsson, and a goalscorer against England their Euro 2000 international match.

Lubomir Moravcik

Lubomir has a total of 74 international caps, 42 with Czechoslovakia and 32 for Slovakia.

After early criticism in the press, Moravcik silenced his critics after a phenomenal performance against Rangers, scoring two goals.

Moravcik has formed an explosive partnership with Henrik Larsson.



Tom Boyd

TODAY'S VISITORS

Celtic F.C.



Vidar Riseth

The midfielder with 10 international caps, played in every Norwegian game in the France 98 World Cup. An extremely fast runner, it is hoped that Riseth will form a productive and strong partnership with fellow Norwegian Harald Brattbakk.

Craig Burley

After eight years as a Chelsea first-team squad member, the former Scotland under-21 star was a surprising but inspired signing.

His surging play made him a virtual ever-present in Wim Jansen's ideal central midfield and he scored a number of crucial goals on his way to a highly impressive final tally of 15.

Paul Lambert

Reborn midfield star who now fills a holding role following a footballing education during his European Cup winning year at Borussia Dortmund. Had left Motherwell 12 months previously on a free transfer under the Bosman ruling.

Signed on at Celtic for four years, and has already shown he is an effective and genuinely high-quality addition to the squad who rarely wastes a ball.

Phil O'Donnell

A natural left-footed player with a great engine, O'Donnell can still fulfil his early potential for Celtic and Scotland fitness permitting.

Injuries to last seasons regulars and a chance from Venglos has given O'Donnell the opportunity he's been waiting for. Featuring in many games this season, Phil, who has returned to form has certainly been showing what he can do.

Marko Viduka

Signed on a four year contract, for a transfer fee of £3 million, the Australian international has dual Australian and Croatian nationality. He has made 12 appearances for Australia.

Nick-named the V-Bomber, Marko scored 41 goals in 75 matches for NK Croatia Zagreb.

Harald Brattbakk

DESPITE enduring a hail of early criticism, lightning-quick Norwegian Brattbakk still managed to average almost a goal every two games in his first season with Celtic. Became the first Celtic player to score four goals in one match for 10 years when he destroyed Kilmarnock.

Lost his place after a confidence-

bursting period, but recovered to score the goal against St Johnstone which effectively sealed Celtic's first title in a decade.

Henrik Larsson

Larsson has been on top form this season, already winning the 1998 Swedish 'Player of the Year' award and the BBC 'Scottish Sports Personality 1998' award.

One of the top scorers in the Premiership, he is already proving to be a great partner for Mark Burchill and Lubomir Moravcik.



Paul Lambert



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TODAY'S VISITORS

CELTIC

Aberdeen fans have endured a real rollercoaster ride this season, with too few good days interspersed with far too many afternoons and evenings to forget.

But there's little doubt which game most would point to as the high point of this season's labours.

The visit of this evening's guests back in August provided the type of entertainment and drama which everyone would like to see more often.

Quite simply, it was one of those games where you had to pinch yourself to believe what you'd seen actually happened.

Five goals, three penalties for Celtic - two of which they contrived to miss - two men sent off, surely the sort of spectacle which not even the most vivid of imaginations could come up with.

Since then unfortunately the quality of fare served up in the SPL hasn't been of the highest, but in recent weeks Celtic have been showing their best form, so who knows, could we be in for a repeat performance this evening?

In Henrik Larsson, Celtic have a player who is capable of lighting up even the darkest of nights or the direst of matches and he's keen to avenge the memory of last August's defeat when he missed a great chance to open the scoring.

Of all the foreign imports who have been introduced to the Scottish game, none has been more impressive than the Swede who goes from strength to strength.

Indeed Northsound Radio pundit Stewart McKimmie reckons Larsson - surely the best £650,000 spent by Celtic - can lay claim to being the best player in British football at the moment.

What impresses McKimmie is not just the superb goal tally but the all round game of Larsson who he feels is the complete team player.

Add to the super Swede fit-again Craig Burley and there's a formidable goal threat in the visitors' ranks although they will miss the clever play of

Lubomir Moravcik who has won many admirers from the masses who said "Lubomir who?" when he linked up with Jo Venglos at Celtic Park.

The title is still very much in the sights of the Hoops but they know victory here tonight is a must if they're to have any chance of retaining the crown they fought so hard to win last term.

The Celtic support will give their team great vocal backing this evening so, come on all you Dons fans, match them in the noise stakes and we might just get a repeat of August.

Maybe we're being too hopeful. Half as good would be great, but wouldn't it be nice to savour a white hot atmosphere which matches the skill and commitment out on the park.

Have a great evening.

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AFC Events in 1999

There's more than football going on at Pittodrie in 1999. Have a great day out with your colleagues or a fun night out with your friends and support the Dons at the same time!

EVENTS / PARTIES

Wednesday 17 March

St Patrick's Night

with the Garioch Blend & Irish guests

Tickets £8 (including light supper). Call George on 01224 650425 for details.



Sunday 21 March

AFC Question of Sport

Tickets from £5. Call Paul on 01224 650430 for details.



Saturday 03 April

60's and 70's Boogie Night with "Boogie Nights"

Tickets £10 (including light supper) available from Pittodrie or AFC Direct, Bridge Street, Aberdeen or call Colleen on 01224 650434 for details and credit card bookings.



Sunday 13 June

Father's Day Lunches

£15 menu (Children under 12 - half price)

Call Colleen on 01224 650434 for bookings.

CORPORATE EVENTS

Friday 02 April

Gordonians RFC & Aberdeen Grammar RFC

Fund-raising Dinner. Tables of 10 - £250 + Vat.
Call Colleen on 01224 650434 for bookings.

Sunday 11 April

US Masters Golf Event

including Tuition Afternoon & Evening Dinner

Tables of 10 - £850 + Vat.
Call Colleen on 01224 650434 for bookings.

Friday 23 April

Gourmet Evening

with Culinary Olympic Gold Medalist, Willie Pike

£85 + Vat per person.
Call Colleen on 01224 650434 for bookings.

Friday 14 May

Football Dinner

The Turnbull Era with John Gahagan & George McNeil

Tables of 10 - £300 + Vat.
Call Colleen on 01224 650434.

Friday 18 June

Annual AFC Golf Tournament and Awards Dinner

Teams of 4 available.
Call Alan on 01224 650435 for
further details and bookings.



YOUNGSTARS PAGE



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Killie Mascot

The mascot at the Kilmarnock game was twelve year old John Yule from Peterculter. We hope you enjoyed your day John!



Today's Mascot

Today's mascot is David Simpson from Ellon. David is 15 years old and attends Ellon Academy. Enjoy your day David!



March Birthdays

The following members of the Shell Dons Youngstars will be celebrating birthdays in March. Happy birthday to one and all!

Pamela Falconer
Jenni Keith
Eric Kwakye
Allan Harkin
Colin MacDonald
Alaster Stewart
Elliot Stuart
Vikki Paterson
Ria McRobbie
Michael Hill
Lee Walker
Claire Hannaford
Fraser Bell
Kenneth Brown
Paul Thomson
Chris Ross
Jonathan Main
Cameron Gow
Niall Brooks
James Pirie
Brian Main
Bruce Raffell
Peter Baird
David Gordon
Mhairi Robertson

Liam Merson
Sarah Leith
Craig Strachan
Gary Smith
John Kane
Robert Know
Leanne Adams
Neil Wylie
Danny Irvine
Ross Anderson
Caroline Meston
Jordan Ferguson
Ewan Rosie
Alexander Buchan
Andrew Christie
Callum McRobb
Stuart Lornie
Stuart Bennett
Robyn Hannaford
Steven Priest
Mark Taylor
Andrew Green
Grant Wilson
Amanda Taylor
James Pirie

Peter Grant
Gary Summers
Jonathan McIntosh
Lewis Bowden
Carly Robertson
Ross Stephen
Charles Duguid
Keith Duncan
Claire Johnston
Kirsten Young
Steven Rae
Simon Wallace
Camryn Mathers
Gavin Shaw
Brian Banks
Liam Ward
Nicola Smith
Michael Souden
Lawrence Philsooph
Paul McGrory
Ewan Barrack
Dawn Morrison
Ewan Smith
Dannie Buchan
Matthew Garrow

Fraser McDonald
Ruairidh Duguid
Caol Reid
Sarah Munro
Craig Christie
Liam McCracken
Mhairi Johnstone
John Pirie
Mark Cooper
Laura Jackson
Jamie Fraser
Paul MacKay
Laura Barrie
Arran Lawrie
Steven Taylor
Roy Brown
Jason Gray
Andrew Miller
Scott Duthie
Christopher Ryan
David Smith
Daniel Kellingray
Sean Paxton
Graeme Kennedy
Scott Coull

Martin Crisp
Scott Minty
Gavin Scott
Logan McConachie
Ross Leslie
Matthew Foy
Greg Anderson
Josh Robertson
Neil Corrigan
Sara Louise Lawtie
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BEHIND THE SCENES

Wendy Massie

IN THIS EDITION, BEHIND THE SCENES MEETS WENDY MASSIE,
WHO IS PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION TEAM
WITH DIRECT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COMMUNITY DEPARTMENT.



● *How did you become involved with Aberdeen Football Club?*

Being a Season Ticket Holder from age 7, I've always been a fan so when my agency offered me one days work in the Ticket Office I jumped at the chance. I was in to help sell tickets for the Brondby game in 1996. Then I was asked to help out in the Administration Department for a week and I've been here ever since! When I was little I wanted to play for the Dons - so I suppose being female, working here is the closest I'll get.

● *What does your job entail?*

The biggest part of my job is doing the administration for the Shell Dons Youngstars Club, our junior supporters club. I also help Chic McLelland organise Goalgetters and the Summer Soccer Academy plus all the Adult Education Courses we run for coaches on behalf of the SFA.

● *What exactly are Goalgetters and the Summer Soccer Academy?*

We have seven venues throughout the Grampian Region where we hold Goalgetters which are coaching course for boys and girls aged 5 to 14. These are week long half day fun courses which teach the kids basic skills of football or to improve on their existing skills. The Summer Soccer Academy is slightly more advanced in that it is designed for older players aged 8 to 15, the course is also a week long but the kids are there all day. Both courses are all about having fun while practising your football so as you can imagine they are very well attended.

BEHIND THE SCENES

Wendy Massie

● *Are there many girls who attend the coaching courses?*

Yes, we get lots of applications from girls, which is great. In fact the Goalkeeper of the week award at last year's Soccer Academy was won by a girl.

● *With all these events you must be quite busy?*

Yes, I'm kept very busy with the coaching but also with Youngstars events such as the Open Day in May and the Funweek in October. The Community Department has also just started a Community Outreach Programme which is designed to ensure that pupils at each primary school in Aberdeen City receive coaching from Chic McLelland at some point during the next year.

● *Your job differs on Matchday though, doesn't it?*

On home Matchday I'm kept busy working for Jim Whyte, our Promotions Manager, selling tickets for the Half Time Draw. I'm usually at the Richard Donald turnstiles and you get a good laugh with the fans there.

● *Finally, what would you say is the worst part and best part of your job?*

The hardest and worst part is replying to letters from young fans who want to be the Dons mascot on Matchdays. I always have to say no because our mascots are chosen at random by the computer.

The best part is definitely meeting the members of the Shell Dons Youngstars Club at their various events throughout the year and seeing their faces when they meet their favourite players.

For further information on any of the above courses please contact Wendy Massie on 01224 650432.

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9	MIKE NEWELL
10	ANDREAS MAYER
11	ILIAN KIRIAKOV
12	ANDY DOW
13	DEREK STILLIE
14	PAUL BERNARD
15	RUSSELL ANDERSON
16	JAMIE BUCHAN
17	DAVID ROWSON
18	RICKY GILLIES
19	DARREN YOUNG
20	DENNIS WYNESS
21	DEREK YOUNG
22	MICHAEL HART
23	RYAN ESSON
24	RUSSELL DUNCAN
25	STUART McCAFFREY
26	ROBBIE WINTERS
27	BALDUR BETT
28	IAIN GOOD
29	DARREN MACKIE
30	ALEX NOTMAN

CELTIC

1	JONATHAN GOULD
2	TOM BOYD
3	STEPHANE MAHE
4	JACKIE MCNAMARA
5	MARC RIEPER
6	ALAN STUBBS
7	HENRIK LARSSON
8	CRAIG BURLEY
9	HARALD BRATTBAKK
10	PHIL O'DONNELL
11	MORTEN WEIGHORST
12	TOMMY JOHNSON
13	SIMON DONNELLY
14	PAUL LAMBERT
15	DARREN JACKSON
17	ENRICO ANNONI
18	TOSH MCKINLAY
20	REGI BLINKER
21	STEWART KERR
22	BRIAN MCLAUGHLIN
24	COLIN HEALY
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RED FEVER: Dons interview exclusive

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